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SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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OSMANY DENIES ALLEGATIONS OF ERSHAD SUPPORTER

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 26 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jatiya Janata Party Chief General (retd) M. A. G. Osmany yesterday denied having given two-years seniority to freedom fighters while he was Commander-in-Chief of Bangladesh Army.

In a rejoinder to Lt. Gen (retd) Wasiuddin's January 4 statement he said "as Commander-in-Chief I had rejected outright a proposal by the then Lt. Colonel Ziaur Rahman for grant of such a seniority.

Subsequently, Bangabandhu who was also Defence Minister had granted such seniority, he added.

Following is the full text of his statement:

Retired General M. A. G. Osmany, Commander-in-Chief of the Liberation War and now chief of the Jatiya Janata Party, in a press release yesterday has offered the following comments on retired Lt. General Wasiuddin's press statement of January 4 in support of Lt. General Ershad:

"For the information of the nation and to avoid confusion, I am placing facts relating to those contents of Lt. General Wasiuddin's statement which call for my comment.

Expressing dissatisfaction on my statement about uniformed politicians having destroyed Pakistan, he has discovered in my statement a belittling of the Liberation War and the nation's role. On this, I need hardly point out that the nation can never forget that the uniformed politicians of Pakistan who ruled the country in 1971 had refused to accept the nation's clear mandate at the General Election of 1970 and, instead, inflicate from their hearth and home, which led to the destruction of Pakistan and we had to fight the Liberation War, to liberate our people. Pakistanis may not, of course accept these hard facts even today;

In his efforts to justify as lawful the conduct of a serving chief of the country, in airing his views through a conference, Lt. General Wasiuddin has compared it with his having interviewed a Foreign correspondent while he was detained in Pakistan in 1972. Did General Wasiuddin consider himself even then (in 1972) as Pakistani officer? Otherwise there is no logic behind this comparison. He has questioned me whether tradition was not broken by giving the freedom fighters two years

seniority. As Commander-in-Chief I has rejected outright a proposal by the then Lt. Colonel Ziaur Rahman for grant of such a seniority. Subsequently, after I had been totally disassociated from matters connected with defence, the Defence Minister Bangabandhu had granted such seniority.

It is not unknown to General Wasiuddin that I had discountenanced the grant of such seniority. In the context of my condemnation of the role of Pakistani uniformed politicians has questioned whether I equally denounce those who killed the Father of the Nation and his family. The nation is aware that I have consistently denounced the killing and been demanding the trial of those responsible for the killing of the 15th August 1975 and for all killings before and after that date. In General Wasiuddin's statement he has said that after landing at the Dacca Airport from Pakistan in 1973, he had enquired about the Government's "National Aim." National Aim can not be of a Government or of a party. It has to be of the nation.

As such, it is explicitly stated in our constitution under the fundamental principles of States Policy, and were published in the national and Foreign papers.

As a high ranking citizen of Bangladesh who has had the distinction of loyally serving four successive Government--the parliamentary democratic Government of the Awami League, the BAKSAL Government, the Mushtaque Government and the Zia Government--surely he could not be unaware of this. At the Tejgoan Airport in Dacca, when he had enquired about the Government's Defence Policy, I did say it had no defence policy which was operative, may be, like his saying he had landed at the Kurmitola Airport. Lapse of memory has caused him to say he had enquired of the "National Aim".

In a different statement in support of Lt. General Ershad, it has been alleged that even after the liberation of Bangladesh I had been unlawfully functioning concurrently as a member of the Awami League, as a member of the Parliament and as the Commander-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Armed forces.

It is not true. The facts are as follows: On retirement in February, 1967, I was transferred to the regular Reserve of Officers under the relevant law and in pursuance of my liability to serve in an emergency upto the age of 58. I had been recalled to the Active List. A retired Officer or an Officer in the reserves can join politics and be elected to the Parliament. It is totally untrue that after the Liberation of Bangladesh I had taken my seat in the Parliament while serving as the Commander-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Armed Forces. I had been sworn in and seated as a Member of Bangladesh Parliament only after release from employment on Active List and from the appointment of the Commander-in-Chief as a retired Officer and Civilian."

CSO: 4220/7762

CANAL DIGGING PROGRAM SAID TO PROVE STERILE

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 26 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Most of the canals excavated and re-excavated under the canal digging programme have consumed an enormous quantity of wheat and a vast area of arable land without producing any tangible result towards the desired goal of doubling the country's food production.

According to reports reaching here from various parts of the country particularly from the Faridpur, Kushtia, Pabna, Rajshahi and Dacca districts water has started drying up in most of the canals so far excavated and re-excavated to provide irrigation facilities from the beginning of the winter as the rivers which are their water sources have already registered a sharp fall in water levels.

During the lean period in February and March the situation turns for the worse and the major portion of the canals look like meandering paths cut across the expanses of arable land.

Two phases of the canal digging programme inaugurated by its architect late President Ziaur Rahman were completed last year. And the present third phase was launched in November last at a village in Faridpur district by President Abdus Sattar who has vowed to carry forward the programme.

Under the first phase of the programme 193 projects were completed covering a total of 675 miles promising irrigation facilities to 5.52 lakh acres of arable land.

The present phase of it is likely to include about 700 canals, out of which excavation and re-excavation of 225 projects are now underway, it is learnt.

The canal digging programme is being directly conducted by the President's Cell under the Food for Works Programme (FWP).

The earth work of 66.73 crore cubic feet to complete the first phase of the canal digging programme involved the major portion of the entire quantum of wheat given under FWP during this period.

According to a competent source, the actual earth-work done during the first phase of the programme did not exceed 35 crore cubic feet.

The people involved in the implementation of the programme misappropriated over 50 per cent of the wheat allotted for the programme, the source alleges.

Besides, there are scores of allegations that frequently the arable land belonging to the hapless peasants instead of powerful persons, were acquired for the canal projects.

Many high officials of the government are also opposing the canal digging programme saying that it is wasting thousands of acres of agricultural land since the canals built on them are neither providing desired irrigational facilities in the dry season nor being used for production of crops.

It may be pointed out that the programme styled as canal-digging revolution was inaugurated by Ziaur Rahman at Kasadah village of Manikgonj subdivision in 1979-80.

Immediately after its launching the Ziaur Rahman government kept on trumpeting the so-called grand success of the programme with a view to attracting heavy doses of foreign aid for his ambitious scheme of doubling the food production by the terminal year of the Second Five Year Plan.

However, various donor countries and agencies including the World Bank expressed their scepticism about the target and the current food deficit has established it convincingly.

CSO: 4220/7762

NORTHERN REGION WATER SUPPLY ENDANGERED BY INDIA

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 26 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] India's construction of the barrage, over the border river Mahananda poses almost a 'fatal threat' to the northern region of Bangladesh as it will divert the whole water of the common river to the Indian state of West Bengal.

The barrage, now under construction at Habtia under Chapra Police Station of West Dinajpur district of India, has been designed also to transfer water from another common river Teesta. This is almost certain to jeopardise the Teesta Project undertaken by Bangladesh recently for irrigation as well as protection of three northern districts from the recurring floods.

The Mahananda river as it flows through this border tip, has had already adverse effect following construction of the eight big pillars on it--to be used for "collapsible gates" in order to stop the water flow for diversion through two big canals.

According to available informations from across the borders, the big canal--40 feet wide and 20 feet deep--has already been dug on the easternside of the barrage at Murikhawa under Fasideya police station. Another canal of similar width and depth was also being dug on the southernside of the barrage for carrying water.

The barrage, clearly visible from Tetulia, has the provision of a massive tunnel for running water from the Teesta river. The construction of a similar barrage over the river Darjeeling which connects the Teesta river would facilitate the withdrawal and diversion of the water from the Teesta river.

Bangladesh was learnt to have lodged protest against the construction of the barrages like "mini-Farakka" over a number of common rivers. India has not responded favourably to these protests. To the contrary she has of late accelerated the process of construction of the barrages over the border rivers to divert water.

According to diplomatic sources, India has plan to construct a number of such barrages over the rivers Dharla, Gumti, Monu, Khowai, Atrai, Dutkumar etc.

The implementation of three-decade old Teesta Barrage Project finally started when late President Ziaur Rahman laid its foundation in December 1980. The project

costing over Taka 300-crore will provide irrigation facilities to over 13 lakh acres of lands as well as protection to 19 lakh acres of land particularly in Dinajpur, Rangpur, and Bogra districts.

But the whole project will be at stake when another barrage now being constructed by India over the river Teesta at Gitaldaha in Jalpaiguri district about 20 miles inside the border will be completed within next two to three years.

The long-standing dispute over the sharing of the Teesta river water could not be solved though late President Ayub Khan of the then Pakistan and late Prime Minister Jawharlal Nehru of India had talks on the issue in early sixties.

In 1978, Bangladesh and India had also talks in vain on the issue particularly for signing an agreement for the sharing.

Lastly, the Indo-Bangladesh joint Rivers Commission also had taken up teesta water sharing issue but is could not solve it because of the intransigent attitude of India.

CSO: 4220/7762

DACCA CONCERNED OVER DELAY IN SAUDI GRANT

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 23 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Unexpected delay in the disbursement of 150 million dollar (Tk 300-crore) Saudi grant committed earlier has caused worries to the government.

President Sattar on his return from Saudi Arabia on December 28 said the fund will be available in a couple of days.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman sent a letter to his Saudi counterpart requesting for early transfer of the fund but no reply was received by him till yesterday.

Meanwhile, in anticipation of the availability of the fund the Commerce Ministry has allocated about Tk. 140-crore for urgent import of foodgrains and industrial spares.

Letters of credit have been opened. If shipment and other formalities are completed before the disbursement the Government may find it difficult to pay from the available foreign exchange reserve.

An agreement providing for 100 million dollar Saudi grant was in fact signed in September last year by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman. The amount was further raised following President Sattar's discussion with King Khaled during the former's visit to Jeddah last month.

Of the grant, Bangladesh has sought Tk. 240-crore in cash and the rest Tk. 60-crore in the form of fertilizer from Saudi Arabian fertilizer corporation.

An official of the External Resources Division of the Ministry of Finance told New Nation that disbursement of the Saudi grant was now under process. He said there is no difficulty whatsoever regarding receiving of the grant. After formal approval of the Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia the final disbursement would be made, he added.

According to a concerned circle the disbursement of the fund is being delayed unusually due to differences of opinion between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of regarding the size of cash commodity under the grant. The difference virtually surfaced following the signing of agreement in September last. It is learnt that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs approached the Saudi Government for the disbursement of total quantum in the form of cash while Ministry of Finance approached for half of the grant as commodity aid. The difference of opinions between the two Ministries were however patched up.

CSO: 4220/7749

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO AID ROAD PROJECTS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] The Asian Development Bank has approved a technical assistance grant to Bangladesh to assist the Government in preparing a suitable rural roads improvement project in Mymen singh Jamalpur and Tangail.

The technical assistance which would be financed by the Government of Switzerland and administered by the Bank will provide consultancy services for a two phased study. Phase one will comprise preliminary technical and economic analysis of about 1300 kilometre of feeder and district roads to determine improvement priorities and phase two will involve detailed feasibility studies of selected roads and recommend the optimum level of improvement for each after considering alternative options and provide the necessary information for a suitable project.

The project area which is agriculturally rich covers about 1.65 million hactres (three acres make one hector) and has a total population of about 12 million. Major local crops are paddy jute wheat pulses and oilseeds.

Of the 1.800 kilometre of roads 1300 kilometres are district and feeder roads which are either paved and in a deteriorated condition or earth roads which are subject to flooding during monsoons the improvement of these roads would provide improved access to production areas and marketing centres.

The technical assistance will involve 16 man months of expatriate services supplemented by about 25 man months of local key professional staff with expertise in the fields of transport and development economics highway engineering soils and materials and bridges and drainages. The consultants are expected to start work in mid 1982 and complete the study in about seven months.

CSO: 4220/7751

INHIBITIONS AGAINST PRIVATE CAPITAL GROWTH REMOVED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 Jan 82 pp 1, 12

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed said on Saturday that "inhibitions" which hindered the growth of private sector capital in the country, had been removed substantially.

Addressing a news conference at a local hotel, the Deputy Prime Minister who is also in charge of the Ministry of Industries, said that a combination of foreign capital and locally available resources and cheap labour provided an immense opportunity for industrialisation of the country.

In this context, the Deputy Prime Minister referred to the Investors Forum which will begin on February 1 next and said that the Forum would explore the possibility of increased flow of foreign investment, technology and know-how in Bangladesh.

Mr Ahmed said that about 60 industrial projects involving an estimated outlay of about 800 million US dollars with a foreign exchange component of 480 million dollars would be presented to the Forum jointly organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Government of Bangladesh.

He said that about 100 prominent investors from different parts of the world including Western Europe, USA, Canada, South-East Asia were expected to participate in the Forum.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that projects to be placed before the Forum were mostly export-oriented and import substituting and, if implemented, would employ over eight to ten thousand people.

He said that four delegations sponsored by the Ministry of Industries regionwise had covered United States, Canada, Far East, South-East Asia, Middle East and Western Europe to leading entrepreneurs from these regions to attend the Forum.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that investors Forum would enable the foreign participants to see for themselves the investment climate in Bangladesh and study the various incentives provided and measures taken by the government in recent years to strengthen private sector investment.

Replying to a question, Mr Ahmed said that the increase in the export of the country during the recent years had not been upto the expectation. This year,

the volume of export was bigger than that of the last year, but the income was lesser, he said.

In reply to another question, the Deputy Prime Minister said that a total of 5701 industrial units had been sanctioned since 1975-76 involving a capital investment of Taka 2000 crores including a foreign exchange component of Taka 900 crore. He said that of the total units 3212 had already gone into operation and another 634 were at different stage of implementation.

He told a questioner that since 1975-76 a total 57 joint ventures involving a capital investment of Taka 139 crore had been implemented. This excluded the recently signed agreement for establishing Karnaphui Fertilizer Factory Limited.

On the protection to local industries, Mr Ahmed said that the Government had ensured protection to local industries in phases during past two years. A high level discussion was going on to provide further protection, he disclosed.

He said that a 500 million US dollar blanket agreement with Romania had been signed for establishing a PVC Complex by Second Five-Year Plan period.

Mr Ahmed said that prevailing political atmosphere was conducive to the investment both from local and foreign sources in Bangladesh. He said that the Bangladeshis could be proud of their glorious role in preserving democracy in the country even after a big tragic incident like the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

Mr A B M Ghulam Mostafa, Secretary Ministry of industries was also present at the press conference.

CSO: 4220/7752

COMMENTATOR ON SITUATION AT DACCA UNIVERSITY

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 24 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] The ghastly incident which occurred in the campus on Thursday night is a shame and an affront to democratic values and conscience and reflects the current rot in our body-politic. The mayhem, as ascertained from police sources, resulted when some miscreants hurled a number of hand grenades at a student procession brought out by Islami Chhatra Shibir. At least 30 Shibir workers were injured and 12 were hospitalised of whom two lost their left legs.

The Vice Chancellor of Dacca University has set up an enquiry commission to find out the persons responsible for last Thursday night's grenade attack. The Vice Chancellor said, "the university is the highest seat of learning and if some one who comes here for the pursuit of studies has to lose limbs then there is no need for us to stay here." But even after that seven grenades blasted in the areas around the University Arts Building and there was firing.

The situation in the university has been deteriorating for a long time. According to statistics published in a Bengali daily during the last ten months there were 32 bomb blasts, 20 acts of terrorism, 27 persons were arrested from different halls of whom 14 are outsiders. Besides, countless rounds were fired, one was killed and 28 injured in incidents of violence. Repeated calls were given by responsible quarters to stem the rot by expelling outsiders from the campus and smoking out illegal arms. And the national press reported and commented on them. The Vice Chancellor had said only a few days ago that the atmosphere in the campus had become unfit for academic pursuit. Not to heed a timely warning on any matter however serious and to appear supremely unconcerned and unmove has been elevated into a norm by the present government which seems to feel no accountability whatever the condition of the state. But in the case of the campus the government went further than that. It acted to fuel the crisis when three ministers jumped into the campus fray and actively campaigned for a particular student party and one minister even promised money for good electoral showing. But this was not too original a deed because a few days earlier the top leaders of Awami League (Hasina) had addressed students meeting in the campus. Not only the government but the opposition parties have contributed in no small measure to bring the university to its present state. The incidents in the university only represents the all-round deterioration and decline in national life.

The Vice Chancellor has expressed valid concern on a number of occasions recently at the way the campus atmosphere has been fouled up. His indignation is understandable. Yet, neither he nor the teachers of the university have taken any clear

stand on the matter or come out with any concrete solution. To say that there is no need for them to be in the university is a mere negativism, and comes very near to shirking responsibility. This is a crisis and a challenge that he and the other teachers must grapple with decisively. The gun running, the presence of outsiders and rowdism by a section of students or non-students in the campus are long standing problems and varsity authorities must speak up why they have been allowed to grow. If the Vice Chancellor took a firm stand over the issue this might cost him official favour but the whole country would back him up. The varsity teachers have always been fighting for the autonomy of the University but when the time comes they fail to assert their position as an autonomous institution. In the past some V. Cs have unedifying record of becoming willing tools in the hands of the government for promoting partisan politics in the campus. There is no such allegation against Dr Fazlul Halim Chowdhury. Then why does he not act to chuck out outsiders, to clear the varsity of unauthorised arms, and ban political affiliation of student parties to restore the academic atmosphere? And lastly, why did he allow the three ministers and earlier politicians of a particular party to address meeting in the campus?

There are quarters which want to destroy the university, as also the courts and all our pride institutions and to sap the moral foundation of the state. The ruling quarters will be only too happy to see varsity teachers behaving like party-men, journalists behaving like government employees, and pass laws rendering court verdict ineffective. This evil design can be foiled only if all responsible quarters resist the forces of anarchy in their respective spheres. They include the teachers, students, the intelligentsia, the democratic forces and particularly the opposition leaders who for a long time have been giving poor account of themselves by failing to react adequately to events of grave moment.

CSO: 4220/7754

IMF PUTS STRINGENT CONDITIONS ON BANGLADESH

Dacca HOLIDAY in English 24 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is learnt to have expressed its dissatisfaction over the performance of the Bangladesh government.

The Fund has imposed some conditions to be maintained by the government of Bangladesh which included, among others, increasing the flow of import, enhancing exports, stopping of printing money, reducing subsidies, not allowing strikes and lockouts, curtailing the loss by public sector and abolishing the indenting business totally.

Under the pressure of the IMF the government has very recently raised the procurement prices of rice and paddy. The IMF also asked the government to withdraw subsidies from every sector. But the government continues giving subsidies on ration, power pump, fertilizer, electricity, water supply and the like.

The government of late has been thinking to withdraw subsidies from fertilizer totally and plans to handover this sector to the private dealers, it is gathered.

The IMF expressed displeasure and raised objections about the unrestrained growth of non-productive current expenditures, lack of proper discipline in credit programming, heavy fiscal burden of subsidies for the maintenance of the rationing system and fertilizer distribution program, failure to achieve production target, negligible export performance and lower achievement in import programme.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh government has already taken some measures to fulfill IMF requirements. The government very recently was tough with the striking bank employees and primary school teachers as per the wishes of the Fund.

The government has also taken some monetary and fiscal measures recently. The salutary effects of such measures may satisfy the IMF.

A high official from Bangladesh government had returned from abroad very recently after talks with the IMF officials.

Informed sources say that whether the current performance would at this stage satisfy the IMF would depend on the appraisal by the forthcoming IMF team about the current economic trends prevailing in the country and its evaluation.

However, Bangladesh had approached the International Monetary Fund for Special Drawing Rights (SDR) equivalent to 900 millions U.S. dollar under the compensatory financing facilities (CFF).

Although Bangladesh officials are optimistic about their chances of getting the SDR facility.

CSO: 4220/7756

IMPORT PROGRAM FOR CURRENT YEAR SHORT OF TARGET

Dacca HOLIDAY in English 24 Jan 82 p 3

[Text] The import programme of the current fiscal year of 1981-82 will not be able to achieve its target due to shortage of fund. It is learnt that even after the end of July-December period, the availability of fund has still remained uncertain.

The government earlier allocated a sum of Tk. 2950 crores to finance the import program. Out of this amount the government had allocated Tk. 1550 crores in cash, Tk. 600 crores against wage earners scheme (WES), Tk. 530 crores as commodity assistance and Tk. 220 crores against barter.

However in the last six months from June to December, no cash allocation has been provided.

During the last six months 24 percent of import trade was carried out under wage earners scheme, 18 per cent under commodity assistance and 8 percent under barter system.

During the July-December shipping period, the government has issued some licences against the Japanese yen credit, United Kingdom and Netherland grants and special trading arrangements. Though the government had made allocation against the Saudi-grant, the fund is yet to be released.

The Japanese ninth yen credit, special trading arrangement, United Kingdom, OPEC and Netherland grants in total will contribute about Tk 200 crores for the import.

The government seems to be hard-pressed to smoothen the flow of import under special trading agreement, credit, grant, barter, loan, aid etc. Due to tight foreign exchange situation, the government has failed to provide fund for importing commercial items under cash.

CSO: 4220/7756

NORWEGIAN AID TO BANGLADESH INCREASED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Jan 82 p 3

[Text]

Norway has enhanced its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Bangladesh by 40 per cent, through increasing its aid from N Kr 120 million to N Kr 160 million about 32 million US dollars for current calendar year.

A spokesman of the External Resources Division (ERD) told BSS after the summing up meeting between the visiting high powered delegation from NORAD (Norwegian Agency for International Development) and the officials of ERD in Dacca on Saturday that Norway had also assured Bangladesh of her increased and continued economic aid in different development and welfare projects in the coming years.

The six-member delegation headed by Mr K. Ole Myrull, Chairman of the NORAD, is scheduled to leave here today (Sunday) concluding its 10-day visit to Bangladesh during its stay, the delegation held talks with officials of the External Resources Division and other concerned ministries and also visited some of the Norwegian aided projects in Sylhet, Comilla and Faridpur.

The spokesman said that the Norwegian aid to Bangladesh which is in the form of outright grant, had totalled to

N Kr. 635 million (about 127 million dollars) since 1973. During last three years Norwegian ODA to developing countries remained suspended due to her own economic strains. He said adding that Oslo has decided to resume its assistance to Bangladesh from the current calendar year.

The spokesman described Norway as one of the 'modest but enlightened donors' and said that Norway as one of the countries which had exceeded the UN target providing about 147 per cent of its gross national product (GNP) as ODA, at present about 0.2 per cent of Norwegian GNP goes to least developed countries (LDCs).

The ERD spokesman said that Norway was co-financing different projects in Bangladesh in the field of shipping, inland water transport, health and population planning and welfare of the women. He said there are at present 14 projects being aided by Norway. He said out of the 32 million dollars N Kr. (160 million) for current year, 10 million dollars would be as project aid and rest 22 million dollar as commodity assistance.

CSO: 4220/7757

ANNIVERSARY OF TIES WITH SOVIET UNION REPORTED

Soviet Embassy Press Briefing

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 82 p 3

[Text] Bangladesh and Soviet Union maintain "very excellent relations" between them and that the relationship is growing "steadily" over the years benefitting the people of the two friendly countries, reports BSS.

Commenting this at a Press briefing on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Soviet Union Mr. I Klimenko, Minister Counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Bangladesh said the last decade had witnessed "fruitful cooperation" between the two countries in a number of fields of mutual advantage. The tenth anniversary of the founding of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Soviet Union falls tomorrow (January 25).

Terming the anniversary a very important event and a "historic" occasion in the development of all round relationship between the two nations Mr. Klimenko said the day would be observed in both the countries with the desire to work for bringing them more closer. He said the Soviet Union takes the pride in associating herself with the liberation struggle of Bangladesh and the honour to be able to assist the new born nation to rehabilitate its war torn economy.

The Minister Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy said the cooperation in politico-economic, technical and cultural fields between the two countries had grown since the signing of the joint declaration in March 1972 during the Bangladesh late Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibut Rahman's visit to Moscow. Besides these fields, both the countries cooperate and maintain same position in a number of international forums to the problems of peace and global stability, he added.

Mr. Klimenko said the trade relations between the two countries grew satisfactorily over the years. In 1981 the total trade turnover between them stood at 57.6 million roubles, compared to 36.6 million roubles in 1976. He said trade gap had significantly reduced and last year it was almost nil. He mentioned that the Soviet assistance in establishing Ghorasal power plant and G.E.M. plant at Chittagong as projects symbolizing fruitful cooperation between the two countries. He said under cultural and technical agreement, Bangladeshi students and post graduates are getting higher studies and training in USSR and delegates from both the countries visit each other furthering the relationships.

There will be an exhibition, film show and meeting in Dacca on Monday in observance of the occasion. In Soviet Union functions will take place in Moscow, Kiev, and Tashkent to signify the importance of the anniversary.

Meanwhile the Soviet President, Leonid Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko have sent congratulatory messages to President Abdus Sattar and Foreign Minister Prof. Shamsul Haq on the occasion.

Greetings from Soviet Leaders

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] Soviet President Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev has expressed the hope that relations between his country and Bangladesh would be developed further for the welfare of the two peoples and would serve the cause of strengthening peace in Asia and in the world, reports BSS.

In a message to President Abdus Sattar on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, President Brezhnev noted that relations between Bangladesh and Soviet Union were entering their second decade.

He said the experience of the relations between the USSR and Bangladesh shows that the ideals of struggle for peace and detente, for curbing the arms race, which assumed particular importance and became the paramount task of all peace loving countries irrespective of their social systems, are equally close and dear to our people.

Following is the text of the message of President Brezhnev: "On January 25, 1982 the peoples of our two countries observe a very remarkable date the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relation between the USSR and People's Republic of Bangladesh.

From the very first days friendly relations based upon the principles of respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference into internal affairs, have been established between our two countries. Guided by those principles the Soviet Union has rendered to the friendly people of Bangladesh assistance in overcoming the ravages of war, in developing national economy and in strengthening her international positions.

The experience of the relations between the USSR and Bangladesh shows that the ideals of struggle for peace and detente, for curbing the arms race, which assume particular importance and become the paramount task of all peace-loving countries irrespective of their social systems, are equally close and dear to our peoples.

We hope that the relations between the USSR and Bangladesh which are entering their second decade will be developed further for the welfare of our peoples and will serve the cause of strengthening peace in Asia and in the whole world.

Please accept, Mr. President, our best wishes of good health and happiness to you and of progress and prosperity to the people of Bangladesh".

President Justice Abdus Sattar has sent a message to Soviet President Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and USSR, to be celebrated today (Monday).

In his message, President Sattar said, "On this historic day, I am happy to note that the bilateral relations between our two countries, based upon the principles of respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of others, have developed satisfactorily over the first decade." The USSR he said, has rendered valuable assistance to Bangladesh during difficult times. There has also been fruitful cooperation between the two countries in various international forums.

President Sattar said, "as we enter the second decade of relations between Bangladesh and the USSR, I am confident that our cooperation will further widen and grow in depth to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

"I wish to convey our best wishes for Your Excellency's good health, happiness and long life and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the USSR".

Cooperation to Grow: Gromyko

Soviet Foreign Minister Mr. Andrei Gromyko has sent the following message to Prof. M. Shamsul Huq, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the USSR.

"On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of Bangladesh please accept, Mr. Minister, my congratulations and best wishes. I hope that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples will be developed further."

Important Milestone: Huq

Foreign Minister Prof. M. Shamsul Huq has sent a message to Soviet Foreign Minister Mr. Andrei A. Gromyko on the occasion of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the USSR today (Monday).

Prof Huq in his message said: "Excellency on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic marking an important milestone in the history of bilateral relations and cooperation between our two countries I wish to extend to Your Excellency the people and the Government of the USSR our warm felicitations.

I am confident that the friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries and peoples will be further strengthen in the future years.

Please accept Excellency my best wishes for your good health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the USSR".

Soviet Aid Reviewed

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Jan 82 pp 5, 6

[Text] The Soviet Union extended its all-out support and assistance to the people of Bangladesh in its national liberation struggle and in creating a new state.

From the very first days of the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent state the USSR has been rendering comprehensive aid, economic and technical assistance chiefly in its production sector, including rehabilitation and development of merchant fleet and deep sea fishing railway transport, communication, power sector, in training of specialists as well as in restoring normal conditions for navigation in Chittagong Port.

The USSR's cooperation with Bangladesh is closely linked with the country's programmes of economic and social development and meets the interests of Bangladesh; it helps to enhance its export potentials paving the way for achieving economic independence.

When Bangladesh was engaged in rehabilitation of its war torn economy the USSR's assistance was mainly channelled on the request of the Government of Bangladesh to the most vital fields of national economy.

At present the Soviet Union is rendering economic and technical assistance to Bangladesh on a grant basis by extending gifts and the state credits on easy terms repayable through the supply to the USSR of the traditional Bangladesh export goods under the Trade Agreement.

Grants and Gifts

Agreement of March 2, 1972: 1. Three cargo ships with the total carrying capacity of 4700 tons were donated to Bangladesh in 1972. Since then the ships have been successfully operating on commercial routes.

2. Four Mi-8 helicopters with 30 crew-members were operating in Bangladesh from 1972 till 1976. Apart from operation and maintenance the Soviet side provided necessary fuel and spares at its own expense. All these were gifted to Bangladesh in June 1973.

3. Training Centre for power engineering specialists has been set up at the Ghorasal thermal power station, which enables to enroll 150 trainees at a time. It has been successfully running since April 1977. Up to now 300 specialists have been already trained by the Soviet instructors.

4. The set of equipment for the training-cum-industrial base for 150 trainees of the Technical College in Joydevpur was supplied to Bangladesh in 1975.

5. All-round assistance for creating deep sea fishing industry in Bangladesh namely:

--Ten fishing trawlers manned by the Soviet crews were rendering assistance to the local fishermen in trawling, operation and maintenance of the ships from 1972 up to 1975. The trawlers were handed over to Bangladesh as a gift in June 1972.

--Cold storage for storing 350 tons of sea products at a time was constructed in Chittagong and commissioned in 1976-77.

--Fisheries Training Centre for training local medium level personnel to operate the trawlers was set up in Chittagong in 1973. Eight Soviet instructors were imparting their knowledge and experience to Bangladeshi cadets from 1973 till 1976. Later the Academy of Fisheries was established on the basis of this centre.

6. 30,000 tons of rice and 5,000 tons of sunflower oil were donated to Bangladesh in 1972.

Agreement of March 22, 1972: Over the period from April '74 the Soviet Salvage Team carried out successfully mine-sweeping and clearing operation in Chittagong Port. 26 large-tonnage ships, barges and motor launches with the total displacement of 100,000 tons were salvaged.

From September 1972 the Port of Chittagong resumed its normal activities.

On completion of this work a certain quantity of salvage and diving equipment was donated to Bangladesh for setting up the National Salvage Service.

Agreement of June 26, 1974: The Agreement provides for setting up of a contagious diseases hospital for 50 beds with the research laboratory and apartment building in Khulna. The Soviet organisation "Technoexport" worked out the project report which has been accepted by the Ministry of Health of Bangladesh in August 1978. In 1979 the Draft General Agreement and the contracts for construction were submitted to the above Ministry by "Technoexport" for approval. And in 1980 the working drawings were completed. The Draft Agreement is under consideration of the Bangladesh side.

Grants under other Agreements and Protocols: 1. One AN-24 aircraft and one Mi-8 helicopter were handed over with the set of spares to Bangladesh for the governmental VIP service in 1973.

2. The following transport means were placed at the disposal of the Bangladeshi side for carrying the repatriates from Bangladesh to Pakistan and vice versa.

--an IL-18 aircraft with the Soviet crew. More than 13,000 repatriates were carried by this plane within 40 days;

--in 1973-74 the steam ship 'Bryansk' was temporarily placed at the disposal of the Bangladeshi side for the same purpose.

--in September-December of 1974 the group of Soviet epidemiologists carried out the whole scale cholera vaccination of Bangladeshi nationals (over half million people were inoculated). 2.5 million of doses of anti-cholera vaccine along with a large quantity of medicine and equipment were turned over as gratis to the organs of Bangladesh Public Health.

3. To help Bangladesh to overcome the aftermath of 1974 devastating flood the Soviet Union delivered to Bangladesh 3,000 tons of wheat, 500 tons of sunflower oil, 20,000 tons of condensed milk and 10,000 bed covers.

The State Credits

Agreement of March 2, 1972: This credit amounted to 43 million roubles with 12 years of repayment period, 2 years' grace period; it carried 2 per cent annual interest.

Under this Agreement technical assistance has been rendered in the following sectors and projects:

1. The Ghorasal Thermal Power Station of 110 MW capacity (two power units of 55 MW each) was constructed and commissioned in 1976.
2. 100 KW short wave radio station was commissioned in December 1972.
3. 6 ultrashort wave transmitters, 2 KW each were handed over to Radio Bangladesh.
4. 100 KW medium-wave broadcasting station at Nayarhat was commissioned in 1974.
5. The General Electric Manufacturing Plant in Chittagong with the production capacity of 10000 tons of electrical items a year was inaugurated in September 20, 1978 by the late President Ziaur Rahman. By the 1st July, 1981 the plant produced 2815 transformers.
6. Prospecting for oil and gas has been carried out. Materials and spares for prospecting and drilling wells were supplied with the Soviet specialists' assistance a gas field of commercial value was discovered in Semutang.

Agreement of April 2, 1975: (35 mln. Roubles' credit, 15 years repayment period, 3 years' grace period and 2 per cent annual interest). The Credit is to be repayed by the export of traditional Bangladesh goods.

The Credit Agreement stipulates the USSR technical and economic assistance to Bangladesh in implementing a number of projects, one of them being further extension of geological exploration and drilling works for oil, gas and solid minerals. With Soviet assistance was fields of commercial value were discovered in Begumganj in February 1980 and in Feni in June 1981. The drilling operation of a new exploratory well KANTA--1 for oil and gas started on October 14, 1981. Other five projects provided under the above agreement had been deleted on the request of the Bangladesh side.

Commercial Credits on other Agreements and Protocol: 1. Commercial Credit amounting to 20 mln. Pound Sterling (10 years of repayment period, 2 years grace period and 2.5 per cent annual interest) was granted in accordance with the Protocol of December 1, 1972 for supplying machinery and equipment.

2. 200,000 tons of wheat worth 26.6 mln. Roubles were delivered in 1973.
3. On October 15, 1974 the Soviet Government granted to Bangladesh 20.5 mln. Roubles (the credit was given for 12 years with 4 per cent annual interest and repayment to start from 1978) including 10 million Roubles in hard currency for purchasing foodgrain in third countries.

4. 5 million Roubles' Commercial Credit was extended in 1978 with the repayment period of ten years and at 3 per cent annual interest. This amount was earmarked for Chittagong General Electric Manufacturing Plant, i.e. for purchasing jigs and fixtures and components required for mastering production in 1978-80.

5. In February 1981 the Soviet side granted to Bangladesh a commercial credit of 70 million US dollars, repayable in ten years with 2 per cent annual interest. It was set aside for extending the Ghorasal Power Station up to the capacity of 320 MW by installing a power unit of 210 MW. The new power unit is scheduled for commissioning in 1984-85.

At present the design assignment is being discussed by PDB and the experts of 'Technoexport' (supplier). The supplier handed over to PDB draft contracts on delivery of complete equipment and materials and on deputation of the Soviet experts to assist the erection and commissioning of the power unit of 210 MW. It is also in plan to instal the 4th power unit of 210 MW sometime in 1983. This done, the Ghorasal Power Station would become the most powerful station in this country having the capacity of 530 MW.

6. In April 1981 the Soviet delegation of the Ministry of Electrotechnical Industry and "Promashexport" on one part and Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation on the other signed the Protocol for expansion of nomenclature of electric items produced at GEM Co. Ltd., in Chittagong. The Soviet side has offered a Commercial Credit of 20 million US dollars repayable in ten years for delivery of equipment, jigs and fixtures, technical documentation and completing parts, required for boosting production output at the Plant in 1981-85.

On September 16, 1981 Bangladesh Power Development Board and V/O Technopromexport signed contracts on execution of design work and supply of completed equipment from the USSR for extension of Ghorasal TPS' 210 MW Power Unit. This is the largest and the most outstanding contract in the history of Soviet-Bangladesh cooperation and its value is about 77 million dollars.

The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) will receive Soviet aid worth 74 million dollars for the construction of the third stage of Ghorasal Thermal Power Station. An accord to this effect was signed in Moscow recently between Bangladesh Power Development Board and V/O Technopromexport.

For detailed discussions before agreement, a four-member delegation led by Mr. Shafiul Alam Additional Secretary, External Resources Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh visited Soviet Union from November 24 to 29, 1981.

Under the agreement Technopromexport will supply all equipment and materials necessary to complete the project of 210 megawatt unit of the third stage. The project is scheduled to be completed by 30th June of 1987. With the completion of the 3rd stage the capacity of Ghorasal Thermal Power Station will rise to 530 megawatt.

This is the biggest project in the history of Soviet-Bangladesh economic relations.

For the completion of this project soft commercial credit will be granted by V/O Technopromexport for 10 years with 3.5% interest which will be repaid by exporting traditional goods from Bangladesh to the USSR.

In an interview Mr. Shafiul Alam told that he is satisfied with the discussions with the Soviet side and provisions have been made for further extension of Ghorasal Thermal Power Station. Replying to a question the leader of the Bangladesh delegation told that Soviet equipment and machinery proved high reliability and efficiency in operation and there is no complaint over the functioning of them.

Cooperation between Technopromexport and Power Development Board of Bangladesh began after signing an agreement between the USSR and Bangladesh on March 2, 1972 which envisaged Soviet assistance to the energy production in Bangladesh.

With Soviet economic and technical assistance in Ghorasal Thermal Power Station the first power unit of 55 megawatt was put into operation in 1974 and the second one of the same capacity in 1976.

By now, each unit of the power station produced more than one billion KW electric energy and the equipment proved very efficient and reliable.

In February, 1981 and in September, 1981 Bangladesh Power Development Board and Technopromexport also signed agreement and contracts on execution of design work and supply of complete equipment, 210 MW capacity, for the 2nd stage of Ghorasal Thermal Power Station.

Speeches at Observance

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jan 82 p 12

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Jamiruddin Sircar on Monday expressed the hope that friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Soviet Union would open a new horizon in the coming days for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries, reports BSS.

Expressing his satisfaction at the pace of progress in cooperation between the two countries in the fields of mutual advantages Mr Sircar said USSR had rendered Bangladesh "valuable assistance in difficult times" of its nationhood.

The State Minister was speaking at a function in observance of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the diplomatic relations between Soviet Union and Bangladesh organised by the USSR Embassy in Bangladesh and held at Soviet House of Culture. The discussion meeting was presided over by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Mr V.P. Stepanov Ambassador of USSR in Bangladesh, Mr Ali Aksad Secretary, Bangladesh Peace Council Sved Aitaf Hossain President Ekota Party Chowdhury Harunur Rashed President NAP (Harun-Jankai) Mr Rashed Khan Menon Mr Shahiahhan Siraj and Sah Mohammad Abu Zafar all members of the Parliament also spoke on the occasion.

Members of the diplomatic corps political leaders and public figures intelligents and the elite of the city attended the function. A photographic exhibition was also arranged as part of the anniversary celebration.

The Soviet Ambassador said his country firmly believed that strengthening and expansion of ties between USSR and Bangladesh serve the "vital interest of two peoples, promote the cause of peace stability and good neighbourliness of the

sub-continent and in Asia as a whole". He mentioned the existing cooperation between the two countries in economic cultural scientific and technical fields and expressed the hope there was considerable possibilities and prospects for the development of relations in all areas of mutual advantage.

CSO: 4220/7758

SATTAR UNHAPPY OVER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' PERFORMANCE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] President Abdus Sattar today directed the Government officials to gear up mobilisation of internal resources to expedite the pace of development work, reports BSS.

Addressing the divisional level officials of Government agencies and sector corporations at the lounge of Chittagong airport, he asked them to remove all bottlenecks in the mobilisation process of "our own resources".

President Sattar said, only foreign aid cannot help in meeting "our huge development cost". We must have our own resources at our command, if we want to develop our country as a self-respected nation, he emphasised.

President Sattar reminded the officials that the country could not be dependent on foreign aid for a longer period.

He expressed his dissatisfaction over the performance of the agencies responsible for building up internal resources and asked the officials to work hard with honesty and dedication, saying, "you are accountable to the nation."

President Sattar emphatically declared that the Government could not allow a certain section of the society to become affluent at the cost of millions of the country. He directed the corporation chiefs to reduce the overhead expenses drastically of their respective organisations and adopt other austerity measures to effect economy in all spheres of activities.

Referring to the country's present law and order situation, the President expressed general satisfaction and asked the officials to undertake more effective steps for ensuring a peaceful atmosphere which, he observed, was a pre-requisite to all development efforts.

All of us in every stratum of national life should put in our best efforts to build up a happy and prosperous nation for the present generation and for the posterity, the President told the officials.

CSO: 4220/7760

WORLD FOOD PROGRAM ASSURES DACCA OF SUPPORT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] The World Food Programme (WFP) has assured Bangladesh of its continued support and assistance in her development efforts, reports BSS.

The assurance was communicated to Finance Minister Saifur Rahman when he called on the Executive Director of WFP, Mr Azevedo Britos, in Rome last week during the meeting of IFAD, a message received in Dacca on Monday, said.

The Finance Minister discussed with the WFP Executive Director about the possibility of increased food aid to Bangladesh and the question of advancing shipment of foodgrains submitted earlier. His response to Bangladesh's proposal was "positive", the message added.

Mr Rahman is now in Belgrade to lead his country's delegation at the 4th session of Bangladesh-Yugoslav Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation beginning there Monday. On his way back home, Mr Rahman will have a stopover in Brussels where he is expected to hold discussions with the EEC officials on matters relating to promotion of Bangladesh's economic relations with the Common Market countries.

Mr Rahman is expected to return in Dacca on January 29.

CSO: 4220/7760

SATTAR GREETES INDIAN LEADERS ON REPUBLIC DAY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] President Justice Abdus Sattar has sent the following message of felicitations and greeting to Mr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India on the occasion of the Republic Day of India:

"On the occasion of the Republic Day of India I, on behalf of the Government and the People of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, have the honour to extend to Your Excellency our warmest greetings and felicitations.

As neighbours, the relations between Bangladesh and India are marked by friendship, good will and increasing co-operation in all fields. I am confident that these friendly relations so happily existing between our two countries will be further widened and deepened in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of our two Peoples.

"I wish Your Excellency long life, good health and happiness and the friendly people of India continued peace and prosperity."

Greets Indira

In another message of greetings and felicitations to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, on the occasion of the Indian Republic Day, President Sattar said:

"On behalf of the Government and the People of Bangladesh and on my own behalf I have pleasure in extending to Your Excellency our warmest greeting and felicitations on the occasion of the Republic Day of India.

It is a matter of gratification that relations between Bangladesh and India are happily characterised by growing understanding, friendship and co-operation. We are confident that the existing friendly relations and co-operation between our two countries as well as our common endeavour for promotion of peace and stability in the region will continue to be strengthened in future to the mutual benefit our two peoples.

"I wish Your Excellency long life, good health and happiness and the friendly people of India continued progress and prosperity."

CSO: 4220/7760

PREMIER, OTHERS DISCUSS BNP DEMOCRATIZATION

Dacca THE BANGALDESH TIMES in English 23 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said on Friday he favours the move to democratise the party constitution. He however qualified his statement by the pre-condition that the any move to democratise the constitution of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) must guarantee adequate power to the Party Chairman.

The Prime Minister made this statement in reply to a question concerning the three-member committee appointed by the Party Chairman to recommend measures for democratising the party. He was talking to ENA in his office at the Bangladesh Secretariate.

Expounding his concept of democratising the Party Prime Minister said elections should be held to all party tiers including thana, subdivision and district. He however thought the 15-member Standing Committee which is the highest policy planning body of the Party, should be kept above the electoral wranglings. The Prime Minister said the Party Chairman should be empowered to nominate members to it.

Talking to this agency the rebel group leader, Mr Maudud Ahmed noted with satisfaction that the demand of his group for democratisation of the Party constitution had been officially recognised. This signifies the singular success of the democratic forces within BNP, he added.

Pointing to the composition of the three-member committee appointed by the Party Chairman, a well-informed party source said it is likely to be reconstituted and made broad-based to include all factions and schools of thought in the organisation. Unless this is done, the committee will not be able to produce any fruitful result.

The committee, the source said, had not been appointed by the special session of the Party leaders of different tiers and front organisations held in Dacca on Thursday last. It has been appointed by the Party Chairman in a meeting of the Standing Committee on Wednesday night in Bangabhaban and therefore its recommendations are not binding on any member.

If the Party leadership is keen to strike an understanding with the dissident group it should sit with the latter to determine principles on the basis of which amendments to the Party constitution will have to be brought in, the source said.

The source further added there has to be of necessity an agreed formula. Unless an agreed formula for democratisation of the Party is worked out, it will not be possible to convene the council meeting and get the measures recommended by the three-member committee endorsed.

Mr Maudud Ahmed said the dissident group has drafted its recommendations for the democratisation of the Party. The draft recommendations include 120-member national executive committee to be filled in by the elected presidents of 76 party political districts and by 44 others directly elected by the councillors. The draft recommendations, Mr Maudud said, also proposed a 17-member, Standing Committee of whom 11 will be directly elected by the council and 6 nominated by the Party Chairman from amongst the National Executive Committee.

The draft proposal of the dissident group also called for making the office of the Vice-President an elective post. It also proposed elections to the offices of the Leader and Deputy Leaders of the House as well as those of the Chief Whip and the other whips in a meeting of the Parliamentary Party on the basis of secret ballot if necessary, Mr Maudud Ahmed said.

CSO: 4220/7747

BRIEFS

HARRASSMENT ALLEGED--Leader of the opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday accused the Government of harassing Awami League workers, reports ENA. In a statement here the leader of the opposition alleged that a number of Awami League workers have been detained implicating in false charges in his constituency. He asked the government to stop harassment of opposition workers. Mr. Khan said, local administration is being pressurised so that the detained Awami League workers are not released. He said that the government has taken to this tactics to cover its failure to maintain law and order in the country. [Text] [Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 23 Jan 82 p 8]

SAUDI ARABIAN CRUDE--Saudi Arabia has agreed to supply 2.5 million tons of crude oil to Bangladesh, official sources said on Friday, reports BSS. Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Zaki Yamani in a message has conveyed this to Bangladesh, the sources added. The quantity will meet, almost the full requirement of Bangladesh during 1982. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Jan 82 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN--The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh have decided to concurrently accredit Mr. M Mohsin, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh in Jeddah as Ambassador to Jordan, says a PID handout. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jan 82 p 12]

UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS--Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, students front of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, emerged victorious in the Dacca University elections on Saturday, when its candidates won majority of the seats in eight out of eleven hall students unions. Out of a total of 132 seats in hall students unions, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has secured 65 seats including 7 posts of VP and 8 posts of GS, the highest won by a single party. The BCL (J-J) secured the second position bagging 22 seats including 2 posts of VP and one post of GS. Bangladesh Chhatra Union got 16 seats, including one post of the VP and 2 posts of GS. BSD supported BCL (A-B) secured 14 seats including one post of VP. Both factions of BCL (M-H) student wing of JSD and Islami Chhatra Shibir got 6 seats each, BCL (F-C) secured only 3 seats. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 Jan 82 pp 1, 12]

EEC GRANT--The Commission of European Communities has approved a grant of 13.2 million dollars for rural development projects in Bangladesh, reports BSS. A European news bulletin issued by delegation of the Commission for South and South-East Asia based in Bangkok said, the grant is for about 30 small-scale schemes for improvement of irrigation, flood protection and drainage works. The projects would benefit an area of about 250,000 acres. [Text] [Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 24 Jan 82 p 1]

INDIAN BORDER RAID--At least 19 persons were injured five of them seriously when a gang of armed Indian dacoits opened fire and thrown hand bombs upon the villagers while committing dacoity in border village Boyra, yesterday night the dacoits looted 26 cattle heads, three bicycles and seven wrist watches and other articles worth about Taka one lakh from different houses of the village. It is reported that a gang of armed Indian dacoits numbering about 30 entered the Bangladesh territory and raided the village at dead of night. Five persons injured seriously were admitted to Chuadanga Modernised Hospital for treatment and the rests were released after first aid. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Jan 82 p 1]

CSO: 4220/7761

PIR PAGARO DISCUSSES TALKS WITH MRD

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Feb 82 pp 1, 12

[Text]

Pir Sahib Pagaro, President of the defunct PML, said in Karachi on Wednesday that his PML-JUP Alliance did not at any stage enter into talks with the MRD but has been negotiating with the individual parties within and outside the MRD.

He said, the PML-JUP Alliance had its Six-point programme comprising the five points which he mentioned in his letter of June 8, 1980, to President Zia-ul-Haq, and the sixth added subsequently, pertaining to the Islamisation of laws.

Khwaja Khairuddin, he said, came with a five-point plan out of which, he said, he put the cross mark against three. A portion of the fourth he placed within brackets, Pir Sahib said meaning that he only accepted one and a half points.

Khwaja Sahib left with the promise to consult friends and meet again, but instead came the MRD's announcement about the failure of the talks which Pir Pagaro termed as "uncalled for."

Pir Pagaro talked to newsmen at his residence where among those present were Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani and Prof Shah Faridul Haq (JUP), Prof Ghafur Ahmad (Jamaat-e-Islami), and Mr. Bostan Ali Hoti (PML's Karachi Zone chief).

He clarified that the doors for talks with any individual party were always open and that any party believing in the democratic process was welcome

to join the PML-JUP Alliance.

A correspondent asked whether the Alliance would be prepared to talk to the PPP should it so desire. Pir Sahib said: "Surely, yes" but hastened to add that if the PPP joined "our fold" it will be examined how it fitted into the "protocol" of the Alliance. Personally, he would give the PPP, say, a fourth rank after the PML, JUP, and the JUI.

He doubted whether the MRD's decision to call off the talks with PML-JUP Alliance was a "unanimous one."

He said that Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, and Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mamari, among the MRD leaders could not, on principle, approve of the MRD's attitude.

In support of his contention he disclosed that an MRD representative called on him on Wednesday morning and conveyed to him a message. Freed to reveal the identity, Pir Sahib said it was Mr. Mushtaq Mirza of the defunct Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP) who explained that he had received a phone call from Lahore and had come to meet him (Pir Sahib) accordingly.

POWERS DISTRIBUTION

Elucidating the PML-JUP Alliance's Six-point formula, Pir Pagaro said it urged the present Government to incorporate "right away" an amendment in the 1973 Constitution regarding the distribution of powers between the President and the Prime Minister as provided in the 1962 Constitution. For, he explained, "we do not want a future Prime Minister to have unbridled powers so that he could do anything — good or bad — at his sweet will."

He said the Alliance wanted the induction of, what he term-

ed, the "Political Government," representing the "registered" parties as well as representatives of the "unregistered" parties in their individual capacity. Such "Political Government" might, if it so desired, get the "unregistered" parties "registered," he added.

Ruling out the proposition of the lifting of Martial Law, Pir Sahib asked how was it possible for any other political element to dispense with abruptly the responsibilities which the G.H.Q. (Army High Command) had been carrying out since 1953.

He emphasized that the "Political Government," whenever formed at the Centre, would operate under the umbrella of the Martial Law with the specific purpose of getting the power ultimately transferred to the people.

This position, he maintained, had been explained to Khwaja Khairuddin, President of the defunct PML (Khairuddin group), when he met him last as well as to the PPP (Leadership) before the formation of the MMD.

Pir Fagaro said, Khwaja Khairuddin, during his meeting, produced a five-point document, requesting for the Alliance's elucidation. Three points, he added, were crossed straightaway, one was accepted, and one-half portion of the fifth was rejected.

On the question of the rights of minority provinces, Pir Sahib said he told Khwaja Khairuddin that these rights were adequately safeguarded in the 1973 Constitution and, therefore, could not be taken as a "separate point" for discussion. Motivations of this demand have (been known during) the course of second or third round, he thought.

Pir Fagaro flatly rejected the proposal to conduct polls within 90 days and said it was "impracticable". He explained that the political parties stood disbanded and, therefore, they required adequate time to reorganise themselves, hold elections at all tiers, draft manifestos etc. for which a period of one year and a quarter was needed before the "Political Govern-

ment," already installed as an interim measure, could conduct nationwide polls.

Pir Sahib sarcastically said that certain parties, including the PPP, which had not been organised through a democratic process, may not want any time for re-organising their cadres.

He stressed that political parties have to be equipped with politico-economic programme and organise a band of selfless workers to carry conviction with the electorate.

ZIA AS PM

He was asked whether he had proposed to have Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq as the Prime Minister, in addition to his current position as the CMLA and the President. Pir Sahib explained that a "Political Government" would have to be led by a politician. For this, he said, there must be an understanding beforehand.

In case no such understanding is reached then, obviously, the office of the Prime Minister would have to be entrusted to Gen. Zia.

Pir Fagaro had the letter read out which he had sent to President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq on June 8, 1980, after having obtained the approval of the PML Working Committee. In that letter, he had spelled out the five points which could become, what he called, the talking points. Later, when the PML-JUP Alliance came into being, a sixth point, namely, the Islamisation of laws, was added.

The five points listed in the Pir Sahib's letter to President Zia were: Withdrawal of Press Censorship; revival of political parties; allowing of political activities, to begin with, within the four-walls' forum; restoration of the powers of courts and withdrawal of the constitutional amendment through which these (judicial) powers were curtailed; and the formation of the Central and Provincial Governments from amongst the members of the political parties.

The Central Government will decide the time-schedule and guarantee fairness of elections in order to enable the people ultimately to have a government of their choice, he added.

ZAFARUL HAQ ON DEMOCRACY, POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Feb 82 p 10

[Text]

Raja Zafarul Haq, Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister, said in Karachi on Wednesday that the people's memory was not so weak as to be misled in the name of democracy by a political party, which was responsible for destroying the democracy and political institutions in the past.

He was speaking at a reception held for the newly elected members of the Federal Council at Arambagh here.

Without naming the party, Raja Zafarul Haq criticised its "undemocratic role and character". He emphasised the importance of tolerance in democracy. He said the biggest weakness of the former ruling party was that it did not tolerate the voice of dissent. The former regime attempted to weaken the very basis of the ideology of Pakistan. He said when its present leadership talks about democracy people still remember how the aged wife of a member of the assembly from Sialkot was called in the police station, harassed and a case of theft of blanket was registered against her just because her husband had called for adequate allocation of funds in the budget for his constituency.

People also remember well how the Opposition leader and leaders of other political parties were bodily thrown out of the Assembly with the help of the Federal Security Force. The people could not forget the

murder of Dr. Nazir Ahmad, who, Raja Zafarul Haq said, expressed his determination in a public meeting in Rawalpindi to fight former regime's anti-Islam measures. The people also remember how Shaikh Rafiq was murdered and why Sardar Abdul Qaiyum was put in the Dalai Camp for nearly 22 months.

He said the underlying idea of the present government's efforts to concluding a no-war pact with India was to devote its efforts more dedicatedly for the welfare of the people and overall development of the country.

In this connection, the Minister pointed out that the government planned to regularise all 'habshi shahis' throughout the country and provide basic minimum wages.

Earlier, speaking at another reception for him by the All-Pakistan Artists Association at a local hotel, Raja Zafarul Haq stressed the need for formulating such a health policy which could provide medical facilities to the poor.

He said that those who are engaged in this noble profession of healing others should serve the humanity in the rural and far-flung areas of the country.

Later, in the evening the Minister was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted for him by an advertising company.

Raja Zafarul Haq is flying to Lahore this (Thursday) morning.

BIZENJO SAYS AUTONOMY FOR PROVINCES ESSENTIAL

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Feb 82 p 12

[Text]

QUETTA, Feb. 3: Mr Ghous Bakhsh Bizenjo, chief of the defunct Pakistan National Party, has said democracy is the sheet-anchor of Pakistan's existence, integrity and solidarity and added that federalism and autonomy for federating units were effective constituents of democracy, the process through which the country had come into being.

Mr Ghous Bakhsh Bizenjo, who flew to Quetta on Wednesday afternoon from Lahore, told newsmen that he firmly stood for the restoration of democracy and recognition of the rights of the federating units within the framework of federalism.

He said in reply to a question that he had signed the 1973 Constitution but when put to implementation, it came to light that this Constitution had defects and did not meet the requirements of the people of Pakistan.

No Constitution, he pointed out, was so sacred that it could not be amended to suit the genius of the people. He said it was the people who were supreme.

He said that the 1973 Constitution could be amended for introducing total democracy and making it workable.

Mr. Bizenjo said he had made three proposals for overcoming the problems facing Pakistan today. One of them, he said, was that the position of the federating units of Pakistan as indicated in 1949 Lahore Resolution should be recognised

and it should be accepted to meet the requirements of the federating units. Secondly, if covenant of 1949 Lahore Resolution was not acceptable then, he said, his proposal was that subjects of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Currency should remain with the Centre and the rest to the federating units.

The third alternative, he said, was that the 1973 Constitution should be amended to meet political and economic requirements of the federating units forge brotherhood and sense of confidence among the people of Pakistan.

He said if none of these proposals was acceptable then the Government should come out with the proposals of its own which should meet the requirements of the Federation and its units to the satisfaction of the people. He told a questioner that his party had been in contact with the leaders of MRD and said despite all sorts of obstacles in its way, the desired alliance would certainly come into being.

He said it was wrong to say that condition in the country were not conducive to holding elections. If elections, he pointed out, could be held in Iran which was at war with Iraq and in Bangladesh there was no reason why they could not be held in Pakistan.

He said the people would have to struggle for their democratic rights which he added, could not remain usurped.

TARBELA POWER CAPACITY TO BE DOUBLED

Karachi DAWN in English 3 Feb 82 p 10

[Text]

TARBELA, Feb 2: The power generation capacity of Tarbela Dam will be doubled by the end of this year, totalling to 1400 Megawatts.

Addressing a news conference here this afternoon, the Federal Minister for Water and Power, Raja Ghazdar Khan, said the work on four more generating units at Tarbela is now in the last stages of completion.

He said two more units (number 9 and 10) will be added to the power house in another three years, adding 360 MW to its capacity.

He said the income of the Dam through power generation, has reached around Rs. 4,000 million per annum.

The Water and Power Minister said that the original life of the Dam was estimated at 50 years, but the present estimate shows an increase of more than 15 years. He said extension of the life span of the Dam was due to better water shed management and less silting in the lake.

LANDSLIDE

Earlier, the Federal Minister said that no damage to any of the structures of the Dam was caused nor any casualty occurred due to the recent land slide from the hill overlooking the Tunnel No. 4 of the Tarbela Dam.

Explaining the position of the mishap which occurred on the 27th of the last month, he said that the WAPDA staff was quite alert and had taken all precautionary measures anticipating the movement of the land slide.

PAKISTANI PERFECTS BILINGUAL TYPEWRITER

Capetown MUSLIM NEWS in English 15 Jan 82 p 7

[Text]

A Pakistani scientist's invention of a bilingual typewriter, in English and Arabic, which is being modified into Urdu as well, will revolutionize communication in 52 languages that use Arabic script over a large area of the world extending from Morocco to Indonesia and parts of China.

Not only will there be Arabic or Urdu typewriters in common use but there will also be teleprinters and telex machines — even computers — in Arabic and Urdu. In bilingual typewriters the change-over to the desired alphabets is accompanied by an automatic change of a disc.

The scientist, Dr Salahuddin Hyder, is a full Professor in the Department of Computer Science, University of Montreal, Canada.

So far, the world has only one language typewriters, either in a Western language or in Arabic or Urdu script. The latter has a keyboard with upper and lower shift positions allocated for character. It is too cumbersome and tedious. It also has several shortcomings, the major one being the limited choice of characters.

Prof Hyder's typewriter has removed all these shortcomings. It is a micro-computer which, on receiving a signal for a character via the keyboard, accepts this information into its memory. As soon as the next character is signalled, the previous one appears in the correct

shape to connect with the next. This is, in effect, precisely the way the human brain operates in writing. ie the writer of a cursive script of Arabic, Persian or Urdu, always knows which character follows the one he is writing.

The main bottleneck in the case of the Arabic script typewriters (as a corollary for Urdu too) has been the many ramifications and forms an alphabet has to take in forming different words, when writing. It needs a complex keyboard for all the 100 and odd ramifications.

The most amazing aspect of the keyboard of the electronic typewriter invented by Dr Hyder is that there is only one key for an alphabet. No matter what form the following alphabet has to take, everything is done on the writer's behalf by the magic box inside.

Dr Hyder has not built any computer in the machine. It is only the electronic circuits known as micro-processors and the built-in memory that do the trick. The instructions are programmed that way and are obeyed by the micro-processors. A micro-processor is an inexpensive item costing only about 15 dollars a piece.

The prototype for the bilingual typewriter was first made in 1974. The machine has since been perfected and it is now on the market, costing only \$13000.

GAS SUPPLY TO CONTINUE BEHIND DEMAND

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 4 Feb 82 p 1

[Article by Babar Ayaz]

[Text] Gas supply in the country will continue to trail behind the demand in the coming years, unless new reserves are found and exploited, according to experts.

They said that no planing on the part of distribution agencies could help in improving the situation if the availability of gas was not there.

The experts pointed out that maximum supply from Sui Gas fields to the southern area is 255 mscfd which has been allotted to Karachi Gas and Indus Gas--180 mscfd and 75 mscfd respectively.

An additional 72 mscfd of gas would be available from Pirkoh fields by November 1983 but by that time Sind demand will have increased by about 35 mscfd added with Quetta pipeline and Lasbella industrial area requirement of 15 and 20 mscfd respectively.

The experts said that to accommodate the Pirkoh gas in the present distribution system of Sind, the Sui Gas Transmission Company has already planned to install two compressors, at Shikarpur and Dadu.

They also pointed out that Pirkoh is expected to provide 120 mscfd of gas on completion by the end of 1985, but that time the demand will also swell to the same level.

The said that the situation can become worse if the future industrial growth heavily relied on gas as in that case the demand will increase manifold not corresponding to the availability of natural gas.

Suggestion

However, they suggested that the Government like many other developed countries should appoint an Energy Audit Committee of experts. This Audit Committee should survey the bulk industrial and commercial consumers to advise them on energy conservation.

They said some of the advanced countries like USA and West Germany have managed to cut about 30 per cent of their energy consumption in this way.

Experts said that this committee would also be helpful to the consumer as it will cut down their energy consumption bill.

They said that since our industrial and commercial consumer is working with comparatively less know-how and obsolete machinery the energy wastage percentage is estimated to be very high.

CSO: 4220/251

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW PRECENSORSHIP--Pre-censorship restrictions on non-literary weeklies and periodicals will be withdrawn "gradually", Raja Zafarul Haq, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, said in Karachi on Tuesday. These restrictions, he added, were however not being applied rigidly. The Minister was talking informally to newsmen after the inauguration of the cartoons exhibition at the Arts Council. Asked about the Code of Ethics for the journalists, Raja Zafarul Haq said it was the responsibility of the journalists to enforce the Code. The Minister's attention was drawn to the Sind Government's circular to the newspapers to desist from projecting political activities. He said that while certain provisions of the MLR 49 with regard to the Press coverage had been relaxed, the MLR 48 concerning political activities remained intact. He, however, conceded that the two Regulations were inter-linked, but advised the Press to exercise caution. Raja Zafar-ul-Haq praised the constructive role of the national Press, saying that the journalists had shown "professional maturity" in reporting the events and in not fanning raw emotions. [Karachi DAWN in English 3 Feb 82 p 1]

JUP LEADER ON MRD--The MRD's announcement on Monday about the failure of talks for a broad-based political alliance with the defunct JUP-PML (Pagaro group) "is out from the blue and quite irrelevant", defunct JUP's Deputy Secretary-General, Prof. Shah Faridul Haq, said on Tuesday. In an interview he said that Khwaja Khairuddin, President of the defunct PML (Khairuddin group), met him and his chief, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, and promised to hold further discussions on "certain points". Khwaja Khairuddin, he added, appeared to have "left satisfied". It was, therefore, surprising to know after a couple of hours that the MRD leaders thought it fit to make an "uncalled for" announcement. Shah Faridul Haq pointed out that Khwaja Khairuddin during his meeting with Maulana Noorani did not identify himself as the MRD representative and so "we took it in normal course that we were talking to the Head of a defunct political party". PPI adds: The Secretary-General of the defunct Tehrike-i-Istiqal Mr. Musheer Ahmed Pesh Imam has said he could never imagine that Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, chief of defunct Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) could ever want continuance of Martial Law in the country "His (Maulana Noorani's) past record speaks about his character in the political field" Mr. Pesh Imam said. [Karachi DAWN in English 3 Feb 82 p 1]

STUDY ON BALUCHISTAN IRRIGATION--Quetta, Feb. 2--A World Bank mission, currently on a visit to Baluchistan, has agreed to prepare feasibility report on improvement and development of irrigation system in the province. The report to be submitted

to the Government, would cover, in detail the possibility of streamlining the irrigation system and making maximum use of the available water resources. The World Bank mission called on the Provincial Governor, Lt.-Gen. Rahimuddin Khan, in Quetta on Monday and discussed with him development activities being carried out in the province. The Governor appreciated the positive role being played by the World Bank in various development projects in Baluchistan. Members of the World Bank mission had earlier met the Provincial Chief Secretary, Sheikh Jamil Ahmad, and also visited some agricultural farms in Quetta Valley. [Karachi DAWN in English 3 Feb 82 p 4]

MAGAZINE ISSUE FORFEITED--Peshawar, Feb. 2--The government of NWFP have with immediate effect forfeited all copies of the monthly magazine entitled "Jamhoore Pakistan" dated 1st January 1982. The magazine contained objectionable material which also to incite dis-affection towards the present regime in Pakistan. [Karachi DAWN in English 3 Feb 82 p 4]

STATEMENT ON FOOD SITUATION--Islamabad, Feb 3--Food position remains generally satisfactory, throughout the country, according to the final estimates released here on Wednesday by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The total procurement of wheat by the Provincial Governments upto 31.12.1981 was 3,980,886 metric tons as against 2,954,882 metric tons during the corresponding period last year. The total production of sugar upto 31.12.1981 was 411,916 metric tons as against 274,625 metric tons during the corresponding period last year. During the last quarter of 1981, Pakistan exported 125,682 bales of raw cotton against export commitments of 34,900 bales only. Position regarding the supply and use of certified seed, pesticide and fertilizer also remained satisfactory and the country continued to be free from any locust activity during this period. [Karachi DAWN in English 4 Feb 82 p 1]

WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY PLAN--Islamabad, Feb. 3--The Punjab Government has recently submitted to the Federal Government a parallel plan for the women university, contrary to that which had already been submitted by the University Grant Commission, highly placed UGC sources today told "Dawn". It may be recalled that UGC in its plan had proposed the upgrading of the three already existing women colleges in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar to the Master level. The UGC experts had described it, as "Women university colleges" to be controlled by a lady vice-chancellor based at Islamabad. The UGC also favoured the creation of a board of trustees to control the administrative side of the proposed "women university colleges". [Karachi DAWN in English 4 Feb 82 p 1]

FIRMS ALLOWED TRACTOR IMPORTS--The Federal Government is understood to have allowed two private parties to import about 2500 tractors. Of this, 1000 tractors are of Belarussian make which will be imported from the Soviet Union. The remaining quantity is known as IMT tractors which will be imported from Yugoslavia. Tractors from the Soviet Union will be imported by a party of Karachi and the Yugoslav tractors will be imported by a party from Lahore. It may be mentioned here that the import of tractors has remained restricted for a long time. The import was, however, made in a limited quantity in the past and that, too under barter. Informed sources said that restricted imports were good for the local industry. The local assembly plants, they said would have suffered if liberal imports has been allowed by the Government. [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 3 Feb 82 p 1]

MANPOWER EXPORT--Islamabad, Feb 3--Government is not considering to nationalise the manpower export business through the Overseas Employment Corporation or any other organization. This was officially stated here today following reports published in a section of the press during last month. It has also been stated that there is no possibility of Overseas Express service to conduct the business, currently handled by the private sector. It has further been clarified that the Overseas Express service is a ticketing agency of the Overseas Employment Corporation and has nothing to do with the export of manpower. The government is, however, fully alive to the incidents of fraud and malpractices and is determined to cleanse and recruitment business from unscrupulous persons. [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 4 Feb 81 p 1]

MRD'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED--Leaders of the MRD component parties on Friday met in Karachi informally to observe the first anniversary of their Movement for Restoration of Democracy. Present at the get-together was Mr Arshad Chaudhri, a senior representative of the defunct Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP), who flew in to Karachi from Islamabad on Friday afternoon. Informal exchanges continued for more than three hours. According to the defunct Tekrik-i-Istiqal Information Secretary, Mr Nafees Ahmad, the situation in the country was reviewed and a programme for the future was considered. Defunct PDP sources said Mr Arshad Chaudhri during his stay in the city may call on Pir Pagaro, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani and Prof. Ghaffoor Ahmed separately. On the other hand, defunct JUP's Prof. Shah Faridul Haq proposes to continue his round of talks as already authorised by the PML-JUP Alliance. He may call on Khwaja Khairuddin, among others, on Saturday to discuss the "points at variance." [Karachi DAWN in English 6 Feb 82 p 12]

FIREARMS FOR MEMBERS-CLARIFICATION--Islamabad, Feb. 7--A news item appeared in a Karachi Daily a few days ago, purporting to say that, like the members of the former National Assembly, members of the Federal Council (Majlis-i-Shoora) had been allowed to keep prohibited arms and that the Federal Council Secretariat had reportedly sent a letter to the members of the Council, informing them accordingly. The above-said news item is not based on facts. The correct position is that, like the members of the former National Assembly, the members of the Federal Council are exempt from taking out arms licences in respect of only non-prohibited bore weapons for the term of their office and six months thereafter. Information about this privilege of theirs was duly and unambiguously communicated to the members by the Federal Council Secretariat on Jan 17, 1982. [Karachi DAWN in English 8 Feb 82 p 10]

CSO: 4220/251

THAILAND

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EXPATRIATE WORKERS DISCUSSED

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 2 Jan 82 pp 34-36

[Article: "Thai Workers Abroad"]

[Text] The movement of Thai workers to foreign countries, especially to countries in the Middle East, is something that has been going on for the last 4 to 5 years. It may be remembered that the withdrawal of American troops from Thailand in 1976 left most Thai workers who had worked at the camps or in other sectors concerned unemployed.

These workers were disappointed when they returned to their original position in the agricultural sector because production in the agricultural sector did not generate enough income to improve their standard of living.

One important reason for this is that they were at the mercy of the weather and droughts and floods occurred repeatedly during the production seasons. When they were lucky enough to experience some good weather, they encountered problems concerning pressures on produce prices from an unfair marketing system that was supported by the dictatorial Thanin government in 1976-1977.

The turmoil from the world economic crisis that seeped into the Thai economic system caused the Thai economic system, whose relationship to the world economic system is that of a satellite, to experience various problems such as inflation, disadvantages in the trading of consumer goods and the reduction of investments (because of the lack of political security), for example.

This domestic economic crisis made it impossible for the workers to find a way within the system to raise their standard of living. It was because of this that Thai workers started going abroad in search of a better income from their labor.

The statistics in Table 1 show that the number of workers working abroad has doubled or tripled every year. When this is compared with the annual increase in the labor force (approximately 500,000), [it can be seen that] the number of workers who go abroad to work amounts to 5 percent of the total increase in workers in the labor market. During an interview, one labor official who is involved in this said that:

"The trend is for this proportion to increase every year since employment capabilities in the domestic economic system are becoming more and more limited every year while the number of workers in the labor market is increasing every year. For this reason, it is possible that the proportion of workers who go abroad to work will increase continuously.

A study made by the Bank of Thailand in 1978 shows that "of the workers who have gone to work in foreign countries, particularly in the Middle East, approximately 72 percent are semi-skilled workers, 23 percent are unskilled and approximately 5 percent are skilled workers."

This means that, each year, the Thai economic system loses workers who are skilled in construction and production to various foreign countries at a rate of 77 percent [of those who go abroad to work]. Considered in terms of actual numbers, this is a rather large number (see Table 2). Calculations from 1977 to June 1981 show the number to be almost 50,000 people.

Thai workers who go to work abroad, especially in the Middle East, must, on the average, pay large sums of money to go work in the Middle East. One official in the Department of Labor gave the following data to this writer:

"As stipulated by law, they are to pay fees equal to only 25 percent of their first month's income. But in reality, the workers who go to the Middle East to work must pay the employment agencies a much higher fee than that stipulated by law. On the average, each person must pay 25,000 to 30,000 baht.

"These figures show that, in the operations sector, the state apparatus cannot supervise the flow of workers abroad so that things are done in accord with the law. This also shows that there is no efficiency in protecting the interests of the workers."

An economic analyst who holds firmly to old-fashioned economic theories would probably say something to the effect that "this movement of laborers to foreign countries is good for the Thai economy since it will play a part in bringing large amounts of currency into the country. At least 6 to 7 billion baht will be sent in each year, which is equal to 40 percent of the income earned by rice exports (based on 1980 figures)."

Such an analysis as this is a one-sided analysis that would not be at all useful as a proposal for increasing justice for the workers. In actuality, concerning this role of the workers, the workers are being greatly exploited by the private employment agencies.

In 1980, the expatriate workers earned 7.703 billion baht. Out of this income, the workers had to pay 25,000 to 30,000 baht per person for their jobs abroad. In 1980 there were 20,669 expatriate workers and so the money paid for going abroad was between 517 and 620 million baht.

Besides this, when they send money back to Thailand, the workers have other expenses too because of using the services of financial institutions. First, they have to pay a fee to financial institutions in the country where they are residing for transferring the money. Then, they have to pay a fee for exchanging the foreign currency into baht based on the exchange rate system of the financial institution in Thailand.

When all of this is added together, at a minimum, these workers have to pay at least 550 to 650 million baht so that they can go work abroad. And they generate an average annual income for their families and country of 6 to 7 billion baht (see Table 3).

This 550 to 650 million baht is not a small amount for these workers who must pay this just to be able to work abroad at a time when the government is not able to build an economic system that would help the employment situation.

This writer feels that the government should compensate for its mistakes and inefficiency by overseeing the system of sending workers abroad so that it is tighter and better than at present. Because then the workers will at least have hope that the private companies concerned will not be able to exploit them as much as before.

Table 1: Number of Thai workers abroad (people)

<u>Country</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Saudi Arabia	2,855	8,502	7,645	9,984	4,531
Bahrain	776		75	306	
Iran		3,199			
Kuwait		2,176	188	958	5
United Arab Emirates		262	146	757	49
Qatar		76	165	1,017	1,043
Iraq				959	390
Libya				6,497	3,544
Singapore		250	660	191	677
Other	239		250	212	310
Total	3,870	14,465	9,129	20,669	10,551

Source: Employment Registration and Foreign Employment Division, Department of Labor.

Note: From January-June only.

Table 2: Number of workers that the Thai economic system has lost to foreign countries.

Year	No of Workers	Percentage Increase
1977	2,979	n.a.
1978	11,138	274
1979	7,029	37
1980	15,915	125
1981	8,124	n.a.
Total	45,185	

Table 3: Income of workers sent back to Thailand (millions of baht)

Country	Jan-Sept 1981	1980	1979
Middle East	4,697.3	4,222.3	1,295.6
United States	1,569.3	2,161.3	1,842.4
Other	919.2	1,319.4	680.3
Total	7,185.8	7,703.0	3,818.3

11943

CSO: 4207/47

THAILAND

EXPORT TRADE BENEFITS MERCHANTS, GOVERNMENT LOSES

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 2 Jan 82 pp 16-18

[Article: "Thai-Soviet Trade, an Unfavorable Contract"]

[Excerpt] On 9 December 1981, a Soviet trade delegation led by Mr Boris M. Levin, met with Mr Wichan Niwatuang, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, in order to discuss things in an attempt to find a way to solve the trade balance problem. Government officials have disclosed figures showing that, this year, Thailand sold the Soviet Union goods worth almost 9 billion baht while purchasing goods worth only 3 billion baht from the Soviet Union.

This attempt by the Soviet Union to correct the trade imbalance with Thailand has resulted in a trade contract between the two countries. That is, the contract calls for Thailand to ship 100,000 tons of corn to the Soviet Union in exchange for 50,000 tons of fertilizer from the Soviet Union. The contract was signed on 17 December.

This contract calls for an exchange of goods on a government to government basis. The Thai Ministry of Agriculture will sell corn at 2,500 baht per ton while the Soviet Union will sell fertilizer at 4,820 baht per ton. The Soviet Union has also stated that it would be happy to conclude a similar agreement in the future if Thailand considers this and feels that it is not being taken advantage of.

Looked at superficially, it seems that this contract is quite fair to both governments since the Soviet Union is buying something that it needs for domestic consumption without having to pay cash, which is a great problem there.

As for Thailand it can release corn, which is an agricultural product, and this indicates that there will be a great surplus on international markets. Also, this 100,000 tons of corn that is being released to the Soviet Union may push up the domestic price of corn and this will help the farmers. Besides this, considering the price that was set for the goods to be exchanged, Thailand gained another advantage because the price of corn at the time the contract was made was only about 2,400 baht per ton.

However, the fact that the government lacks expertise in trading shows that the government was taken advantage of in this contract. Also, the profits from releasing 100,000 tons of corn to the Soviet Union are being reaped only by the merchants. Even though trading with the Soviet Union will push corn prices higher on domestic markets and corn prices will be good, the farmers will not have a chance to sell.

High-level officials from the Ministry of Agriculture talked with SIAM MAI about the mistakes that the government has made and that have resulted in this goods exchange contract that was to have benefited Thailand in several ways instead making Thailand the loser. They said that the "government's announcement that it will sell this amount of corn to the Soviet Union without first being in possession of the corn is a very serious mistake. It has killed itself in the most stupid way possible."

These high-level officials from the Ministry of Agriculture also stated that concerning the sale of such a large amount of corn, in trade or merchant circles, a great effort must be made to keep this a secret because, if rumors get out, corn prices will be inflated by the merchants and this will result in driving up corn prices above actual levels for the corn that is to be bought in order to sell it in accord with the contract. And, if [an organization] does not have any grain at all in its possession as was the case with the government when it signed the contract, it is even more necessary to maintain secrecy.

"The government was probably glad about being able to sell some corn and so it hurried to tell the people in order to gain approval. I think that, with this contract, the government will in the end lose face instead," stated the news source.

As for corn prices, before the government announced that it was going to sell 100,000 tons of corn to the Soviet Union, domestic market prices were very low. The farmers were in trouble because they could not sell their produce at a good price. The price was only 2.40 baht per kilogram while the government's guaranteed price was 2.50 baht per kilogram.

But after the exchange sales contract between Thailand and the Soviet Union was signed on 17 December, the price of corn rose quickly and in only 1 week the price of corn reached 2.60-2.80 baht per kilogram.

The reason that corn prices have increased is that the merchants have seen that the government, which is committed to shipping 100,000 tons of corn to the Soviet Union in May 1982, does not have any corn at all in its possession and, therefore, it will quickly have to make a major purchase. It is the government's need for a great amount of corn that has caused Thai corn merchants to inflate prices and profits.

And the fact that corn prices on the domestic market have now risen has not helped the farmers at all since most of the corn is already in the hands of the merchants and not the farmers.

Now, the government must quickly purchase corn at prices reaching 2,600 to 2,800 baht per ton, and it will be able to sell it for only 2,500 baht per ton. Thus, it is losing money on this deal. And the hundreds of millions of baht that the government is paying the corn merchants, who are taking advantage of this opportunity that has resulted from the government's mistake, is money from people's taxes.

Besides the government's trade ineptness, which caused it to be outsmarted by the merchants, the trade contract itself contains complex aspects because the agreement calls for trade on a government to government basis. But, details specified in the contract state that this exchange of corn for fertilizer must be handled by middlemen. One such person is Mr Plengsak Prakatphesat, the chairman of the board of the Thai Central Chemical Company and a major fertilizer merchant who has frequent dealings with the Ministry of Agriculture and who plays an important role in selling fertilizer to the government.

"On the surface it seems that the trade contract between Thailand and the Soviet Union is fair to both governments. But in reality, in carrying out things in accord with the terms of the contract it can be seen clearly that the [Thai] government has lost great profits to the merchants, both because the corn purchase price is higher than it should be and because the trade contract involves middlemen," said a high-ranking official in the Ministry of Commerce resentfully to SIAM MAI.

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